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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 37 Berkeley, California, December, 1955 Number 12

OCTOBER TRIP TO GRASS VALLEY

On Saturday, October 15, 31 members and friends enjoyed a soft, autumn day in the Grass Valley Regional Park area. Upper San Leandro reservoir, Redwood Canyon and adjacent hillsides were also part of the itinerary. The following 53 species were noted: Mallard, Baldpate, Pintail, American Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Killdeer, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Horned Owl, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Bewick Wren, Calif. Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser (Green-backed) Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

— LELAND L. STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian.*

DECEMBER MEETING

The 459th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 on Thursday, December 8, in the Commissioners' Room of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin and McAllister Sts., No. 5 bus). Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator, Department of Birds and Mammals of the California Academy of Sciences, will present an illustrated lecture: "The Palms of Guadalupe." Dr. Orr spent several weeks in 1952 and again in 1955 photographing the plants and animals of an oasis in Lower California which rivals our own Palm Springs. Dr. Orr is a delightful speaker — full of humor. Come and bring a friend.

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR LECTURE. On Thursday, December 15, by Tom and Arlene Hadley, "Into the North Woods", at Berkeley High School Little Theatre, 8:00 p.m. According to Mrs. George C. Browne, Screen Tours Chairman, all of the season tickets have been sold.

OCTOBER TRIP TO CONN LAKE

On Sunday, October 22, the trip to Conn Lake in Napa County attracted a group of 41. At the meeting place at the bridge on the Silverado Trail just north of Napa, foggy weather prevailed as it had in the Bay area for weeks. A Mockingbird was seen here perched on the chimney of the deluxe rest home just east of the bridge. The group proceeded by car caravan up the Silverado Trail with one stop to look at a Lewis Woodpecker. At Conn Lake the clear, warm weather was conducive to basking in the sun but not to hiking. Both land and water birds were abundant, though few hawks were seen and no Golden Eagles. The dabbling ducks were quite common (no Wood Ducks were found) but geese and the diving ducks had not yet arrived in very large numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in several places. The following 62 species were observed.

Loon (species ?), Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Killdeer, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Calif. Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Crow, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

OBSERVATIONS

RING-NECKED DUCK, 4 at St. Mary's Lake, Nov. 14 (Junea W. Kelly); WILSON SNIPE, St. Mary's Lake, Nov. 14 (JWK); POMARINE JAEGER, Bay Farm Island, Oct. 15 (JWK); SHORT-EARED OWL, Bay Farm Island, Nov. 19 (JWK); ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD, El Cerrito, Oct. 29 (A. Laurence Curl); LEWIS WOODPECKER, St. Mary's College, Nov. 2 (First record for the campus, A. S. Campbell); CLARK NUTCRACKER, near Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, Oct. 23 (Bradley S. Sibley); WINTER WREN, near Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, Nov. 11 (BSS); VARIED THRUSH, about 12 feeding on Madrone berries, St. Mary's College, Nov. 14 (JWK); GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, El Cerrito, Nov. 10 to 14 (ALC); WESTERN MEADOWLARK, Lafayette Park, San Francisco, Oct. 30 (George T. Kilham); SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, Lafayette, Nov. 10 (Harry Adamson); WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, near Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, early in October and since Nov. 5 (BSS); Lafayette, Nov. 10 (HA); LINCOLN SPARROW, Lafayette, Nov. 10 (HA).

The Golden Gate Audubon Society was represented at the 51st Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society in New York City, November 12 - 15, by Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, Director and former President.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual San Francisco Christmas bird count will be held on Monday, December 26. There will be 14 groups and the following leaders welcome help from our large membership: Group 1 will meet at the Lagoon of the Palace of Fine Arts with Arthur J. Bennett as leader. Group 2 meets at Mission and Geneva Ave. with Dr. A. Laurence Curl leading; Group 3 under Harold G. Peterson will meet at Sutro Heights; Group 4 with Dr. Albert Boles will cover Golden Gate Park meeting at 31st Ave. and Fulton Street; Groups 5 and 6 will meet at Fulton and 10th Ave., with Joel T. Hedgpeth covering the area from 10th Ave. to 31st Ave., and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens will lead Group 6 to the Panhandle. Group 7 under Loris P. Smith will cover Lake Merced and meets at Fleishhacker Playfield. Group 8 with Carl L. Carson will meet at Stern Grove and will cover the Twin Peaks area. Group 9 exploring the Pacific Ocean Beach and Seal Rocks will be with Dr. T. Eric Reynolds. Group 10 will meet at the Lombard St. entrance of the Presidio with Leslie W. Bartow as leader; Group 11 with Peter A. Veitch as leader will meet at the foot of Van Ness Ave. Group 12 will be led by L. Richard Leinbach and will count birds on Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands; Group 13 will explore the city smaller parks with Robert R. Chase. One group will meet at the Civic Center; Group 14 under direction of Mrs. Harry B. Lennon will explore the shoreline of the county next to the Marin shore. All groups are expected to meet at 8 a.m. All reports should be sent to the Chairman as soon as practicable.

— ARTHUR H. MYER, *Chairman.*

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On January 2, Monday, the Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be taken by volunteer parties of observers in the area which includes Bay Farm Island, Berkeley, Tilden Park, Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga, Redwood Regional Park, etc. All who can are urged to participate. Call Leland L. Stallcup, 6227 Buenaventura Ave., Oakland, LO. 9-3185 for assignment to a particular locality.

Audubon Field Notes magazine, in which the counts are published, is now requiring a 50c fee from each observer participating in each count, to help defray increased cost of publication.

WILD AMERICA, by Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher, published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, at $ 5.00. Confirmed birders who were delighted by Roger Tory Peterson's BIRDS OVER AMERICA will certainly be no less pleased by WILD AMERICA. This is the story of the 100-day, 30,000 mile field trip taken in 1953 by Peterson and James Fisher, the well-known British ornithologist and author of 12 previous books on birds. Starting in Newfoundland they travelled down the Eastern Seaboard to the tip of Florida, then up and over to Louisiana and down the Texas Coast and into Mexico to the vicinity of Xilitla in San Luis Potosi, then across Arizona and up the Pacific Coast with as a finale a trip to Alaska and the Pribilofs. In all, 600 species were seen on the trip, 401 of which were new to Fisher. Numerous well-known birders are encountered here and there in the book, including Laidlaw Williams of Carmel and Donald McHenry and W. J. Fitzpatrick of Yosemite.

FIELD TRIP FOR DECEMBER

For a direct acquaintance with some of the greatest of all concentrations of geese and ducks, as well as the other varied winter life of the Sacramento Valley, we will visit two waterfowl refuges there on December 10 and 11. In addition to thousands of Canada, White-fronted, and Snow Geese, some Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, and Ross Geese may be found. Dabbling ducks will be present in hundreds of thousands, and other species of birds not often encountered in the Bay area which are to be expected include Bitterns, Gallinules, Ferruginous Hawks, Starlings and Lincoln Sparrows.

The conducted trip on Saturday, Dec. 10, will start at 10:30 a.m. from the headquarters of the SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, which is on the east side of U.S. Route 99W about 7 miles south of the town of Willows. On Sunday, Dec. 11, meet at 9:00 a.m. at the headquarters of GREY LODGE STATE GAME REFUGE, which is reached by driving west from U.S. Route 99E at Gridley for 6 miles, then south on Pennington Road about 2 miles, and west again at the sign. Bring plenty of warm clothing, footwear for walking on possibly muddy roads or dikes in the refuges, and binoculars, telescope, and lunch (for each day). Leader, Harry C. Adamson, AT. 3-2164.

Overnight accomodations are available (advance reservations recommended) in Gridley at the Markuay Motel or Pacific Motel (latter listed by CSAA at $5 - 6), in Williams, on U.S. 99W, at the Travelers Hotel and El Rancho, La Siesta, and Travers Motels (all listed by CSAA at $4 - 6 for two), and in Willows at the Willows Motel ($5 - 6). If those driving who could take passengers from the Bay Area on a share-expense basis, and those who need such transportation, will call TR. 3-6419 (evenings) not later than Dec. 7, they will be put in touch with each other.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Field Trips Chairman.*

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from Alameda, Miss Mary L. Crafts; from Berkeley, Mrs. Blanche O. Clear, Miss Ynez D. Haase, Mrs. David P. Snyder and Mrs Henry F. Whitmore; from Oakland, Mrs. Herbert Carl, Miss Elsie Cotter and Mrs. J. E. Peregrine; from San Francisco, Cavendish Moxon and Mrs. Angelita L. Sherer.

— MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 — TH. 8-4042